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Tips for a Safer Thanksgiving

Traditional Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends are fun but can increase the chances of getting or spreading [COVID-19](#) or the [flu](#). Follow the tips below to make your Thanksgiving holiday safer.

The safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving this year is to celebrate only with the people in your household or virtually.

If you do plan to spend Thanksgiving with people outside your household, take appropriate steps to make your celebration safer.

Requirement: It is very important for everyone to take responsibility and do their part. You must follow Governor Baker's travel order.

- **[Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Order:](#)**
 - All visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, from **higher risk states** must complete a [Massachusetts Travel Form](#) and quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Massachusetts **or** produce a negative COVID-19 PCR test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to arrival in Massachusetts.
 - *The order applies even "just for the day" for Thanksgiving celebrations*
 - If your COVID-19 test result has not been received prior to arrival, visitors, and residents must quarantine until they receive a negative test result.
 - Testing for children, 10 years and younger, who are traveling with an adult from their household is not required. However, children under age 10 who travel should follow the quarantine or testing plan their parent elects.
 - A full, up-to-date, list of COVID-19 high and low risk state designations can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states->

- **Keep gatherings small or better yet, virtual**
 - Limit in person holiday gatherings to people you live with.
 - If you must gather in person, wear a mask except when eating and drinking, clean your hands often and stay at least 6 feet away from people you don't live with. *This includes while watching football, eating Thanksgiving dinner or Black Friday shopping. Bundle up and spend as much time outside as possible.*
 - Indoor gatherings at private residences have a maximum size limit of 10 persons, and outdoor gatherings cannot exceed 25 people per Governor Baker's order.
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>
 - [Anyone with symptoms or awaiting test results should not attend gatherings.](#)
- **Returning to school or work after Thanksgiving break**
 - If you traveled, ensure that you have received your negative COVID-19 test results before returning to school or work.
 - Be vigilant and monitor for any [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) and stay home to seek medical advice if you have any symptoms.
- Adapted from [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)